

In the specification:

Please amend paragraph [0011] as follows:

[0011] The alert system comprises a hollow plug and a pliable port adhesively attached about the stoma. The plug incorporates both a hydrophobic and an odor eliminating filter. The plug has a pair of electrical contacts which, when the plug is engaged in the port, are connected to a sensor. The contacts also are connected to a pair of contacts at the lower end of the plug. When fecal matter enters the plug and bridges the lower contact, a circuit is completed, activating the sensor to provide a tactile or audible alert. An inflatable cuff about the plug tube creates a barrier to passage of fecal matter. The plug may be removed, irrigated or replaced as necessary. A pouch system may be utilized without removing the slidable port so as to protect the patient's skin.

Please amend paragraph [0019] as follows:

[0019] A circuit board 32 is attached to the pad 12. T h e circuit board may have a replacement indicator. The replacement indicator counts elapsed time that the device has been used or the number of times the plug has been removed and replaced. Once a threshold limit of either of these measures has been reached, the circuit board will send a signal to an indicator for alerting the user to the fact that the entire device needs to be replaced. The periodic replacement of the device insures that the device will not fail due to a dead battery.

Please amend paragraph [0021] as follows:

[0021] The structure of the plug 14 is best seen with reference to Figures 3 and 4. In Figure 3, located below the top end 74 are two conductive rings 80, 82 encircling the outer surface of the plug. When the plug is inserted into the central aperture of the pad, the top ring 80 on the plug makes contact with the upper ring

20 in the aperture. In a like manner, the lower ring 82 on the plug makes contact with the lower ring 22 in the aperture ~~82~~. The ring conductors could be other shapes such as strips or points, but the rings make alignment of the conductors easier. Also, about the outer surface of the plug is an inflatable cuff 120. When the plug is inserted into the stoma, the cuff can be inflated to help maintain the plug in place.

Please amend paragraph [0022] as follows:

[0022] Figure 4 shows the internal structure of the plug 14. Near the bottom end 76 of the plug, first and second conductors 100, 102 encircle the inner surface of the plug. Each lower conductive ring 100, 102 is electrically connected to an upper conductive ring 80, 82 by a conductor 92, 94. As depicted, lower conductive ring 102 is connected to upper conductive ring 80 by a first conductor 92 whereas lower conductive ring 100 is electrically connected to upper conductive ring 82 by a second conductor 94. Which lower ring is connected to which upper ring is not important as long as one of the upper rings is connected to one of the lower rings. Located at the top of the plug is a hydrophilic filter 84 ~~82~~ and a charcoal filter 86. Combined, the filters allow the venting of gas to avoid bloating.